

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 has been amended, and claims 21-26 have been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-26 are pending.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 6-20.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Itou (EP 1,122,094) in view of by Svensson (US 3,799,472). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Svensson is nonanalogous art and should not be used in the obviousness analysis. Svensson is from the fishing reel art, whereas the present invention is directed to the bicycle art. Furthermore, the objective of the Svensson patent is to provide a spinning fishing reel that can be dismantled easily and to completely relieve the end cover walls of axial loads. The present invention is not concerned with such issues. While Svensson has a screw setting mechanism that adjusts the frictional force on the reel, it is done to accommodate the strength of the fishing line used. The present invention does not provide a brake force adjusting mechanism to accommodate the hub or wheel used, or any other component, for that matter. The problem addressed by the applicant is to provide an outside accessible adjusting mechanism. While Svensson's adjusting mechanism is outside accessible, Svensson makes no comment about this feature, so one of ordinary skill in the art would not be alerted that such a feature would be useful in a bicycling context.

New claims 21-26 are patentable, as a minimum, for the same reason. For example, Svensson's adjusting mechanism does not rotate around the spindle (1) (claim 21); the outside accessible portion does not have a through hole through which the spindle (1) passes (claim 22); the adjusting mechanism and the brake force control mechanism are located on opposite sides of spool (3) (contra claim 23); there is no recessed tool receiving opening in knob (87) (claim 24); the adjusting mechanism increases frictional force by moving axially inwardly (contra claim 25); and the braking force is not applied to an inner peripheral surface of spool (3) (claim 26).

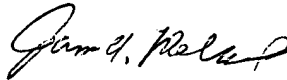
Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome by the foregoing remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

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PATENT

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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